

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 and 16 are now amended. The claim amendments are fully supported by the application as filed and do not present new matter. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Office Action indicates that "Communication for Chinese Patent Office re: counterpart application" submitted with Applicants' May 28, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement was not considered because no English translation was provided.

Upon further consideration of this reference, Applicants do not believe it is relevant and, therefore, consideration is not necessary. It is only necessary that the Examiner consider the references cited in the Chinese document, which the Examiner did as indicated by the Examiner's initials on Applicants' Form 1449.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 7-10, 12-14, 16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. (JP 2000-066199) in view of Nakazawa et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,736,278). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 16 are now amended to recite, in part and with reference to Figure 3 for exemplary purposes only, a black mask 33 overlapping the interval between adjacent portions of the dot areas (areas of overlap between electrodes 10 and 11) as viewed in plan, the black mask having a width equal to the interval between the

adjacent portions of the dot areas and narrower than the interval between the adjacent portions of the reflective conductive film 18.

The Office Action acknowledges that the Maeda et al. reference fails to disclose a black mask formed between adjacent dot areas, as set forth in amended Claims 1 and 16. 11-03-04 Office Action at 4. The Nakazawa et al. reference appears to disclose, with reference to Figure 2B, a black matrix having a light screening area 27 formed with ink dots at margins of a transparent area 26. The Nakazawa et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest a black matrix overlapping an interval between adjacent dot areas with a width equal to the interval between adjacent dot areas and narrower than the interval between adjacent portions of a reflective film, as set forth in amended Claims 1 and 16.

The Maeda et al. reference and the Nakazawa et al. reference fail to disclose or suggest, alone or in combination, each and every feature of either amended Claim 1 or amended Claim 16. Specifically, the references fail to disclose or suggest a black mask overlapping the interval between adjacent dot portions in plan, the black mask having a width equal to the interval between adjacent portions of the reflective conductive film, as set forth in amended Claims 1 and 16. Therefore, the cited references fail to anticipate or render obvious amended Claims 1 and 16 and those claims dependent therefrom. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this Section 103 rejection.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action states that Claims 2, 4, 5, 6, 11, 15, 17, 19 and 20 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for recognizing the patentable features of these claims.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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